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Contents

		Page
1.	Arab Organization for Human Rights	2
2.	Association of the Bar of the City of New York	4
3.	Congress of Black Women of Canada/Le Congrès des Femmes Noires du Canada	7
4.	Federation of Cuban Women	9
5.	General Arab Women Federation	11
6.	Institute for War and Peace Reporting	13
7.	International Commission of Jurists	16
8.	International Federation of Building and Wood Workers	19
9.	National Union of Jurists of Cuba	21
10.	Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association	23
11.	Union of Arab Jurists	26

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1. Arab Organization for Human Rights

Special consultative status granted in 1989

Aims and purposes

The Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) was founded in 1983 as a non-governmental organizations which, as defined by its statute, works for the defence, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Arab region, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights treaties and conventions.

AOHR's scope of activities extends to individual and collective civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. It also aims at raising public awareness regarding legal and civil rights.

In 1990, it attained observer status with the Organization of African Unity's Commission for Human and People's Rights. In May 2000, AOHR signed a headquarters' agreement with the Government of Egypt as an international and regional organization based in Cairo.

AOHR's budget is based on membership fees, donations, and interest from its deposits. It does not accept donations from political movements or from Governments, in order to maintain its credibility in the Arab world.

Participation in the work of the Council

Between 1997 and 2000, AOHR attended the fifty-third, fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and made oral interventions under items 9, 4, 8, 10, 11 of its agenda. It attended the eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; the forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first meetings of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva); the forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the UNHCR; Executive Committee meetings of non-governmental organizations; the fourteenth United Nations International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine (1997); the Special Committee of International NGOs on Human Rights (Geneva, 1998, 1999 and 2000); sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1997-2000, Geneva); sessions of the Commission on Human Rights Working Group on a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2-13 February 1998 and January 1999, Geneva); meetings of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (February and August 1998); the Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome, June 1998); the Symposium on Islam and Human Rights (Geneva, August 1998); the Paris Meeting for Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 1998); the Conference of the High Contracted Parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention (15 July 1999); the fifty-second session of the World Health Organization; the Seminar on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Abidjan, March 1998); and the seminar commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of UNHCR (Geneva, November 2000).

Between 1997 and 2000, the work of AOHR was oriented towards the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, with special attention to development and human rights. AOHR, in cooperation with UNDP and UNHCHR, AOHR organized, in June 1999, the Seminar on Human Rights and Development, held in Cairo, with wide participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, academics and experts in the Arab region. The Seminar produced a Programme of Action for promoting the integration of human rights with development and the role of non-governmental organizations in its implementation. In order to raise awareness on the subject, a three-year project, at the regional and the national levels, has been negotiated between AOHR, UNDP and UNHCHR, and will be signed in 2001. AOHR will be the executing agency of the project.

The Secretary-General of AOHR was selected by UNDP, to be a member of the Advisory Panel to the *Human Development Report 2000*, on human rights and human development.

AOHR was selected, in 2000, by the UNHCHR, to be a member of the Preparatory Committee for the NGO Forum to be held in parallel with the World Conference against Racism (Durban, South Africa, August 2001). Furthermore, AOHR was requested, by the Preparatory Committee, to organize an Asian/Arab regional meeting in Amman, Jordan, in February 2001.

The Arab Institute for Human Rights was created by AOHR, the Arab Lawyers Union, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, UNESCO and the Tunisian League for Human Rights.

During the period 1997-2000, AOHR continued, with the Arab Institute for Human Rights, the Arab Lawyers Union, the United Nations, and Huridocs, the efforts aimed at establishing the Arab Network for Information and Documentation on Human Rights (AHRINET) as an effective instrument to Arab organizations working in the field of human rights.

AOHR, through its publications and seminars, has raised awareness of issues that are of concern both regionally and internationally. Its programme of action closely follows the recommendations of the competent bodies of the United Nations. In that respect, AOHR has:

(a) Organized a series of seminars and symposia dealing with the pressing debates and discourses on human rights. The subjects covered included human rights in Islam, Israeli war crimes against Arab prisoners of war and civilians, poverty in the era of globalization, the international impact of the Arab movement for Human Rights, the new draft project of law concerning the establishment of civil associations in Egypt, the establishment of an International Criminal Court, intellectual and academic freedoms, human rights development, the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, the future of democracy in the Arab region, and the protection of human rights activists;

(b) Issued a monthly newsletter in Arabic and a brief in English to review human rights issues and violations in Arab countries, the activities of local and international human rights groups, and significant events in the field of human rights, particularly United Nations activities;

(c) Produced an annual report on the situation of human rights in the Arab World, in Arabic with English translation of its introduction;

(d) Produced a biannual publication *Cases of Human Rights* which includes research on problems related to human rights;

(e) Issued statements and declarations on pressing issues and violations of human rights.

Finally, AOHR's plan for the next few years is to implement, in cooperation with UNHCHR and UNDP, the programme under discussion, aiming at the integration of human rights with development, which includes the issuing of the first Arabic manual on human rights and development; continue its campaign to invite all Arab States to join international legality by adhering, without reservations, to the International Conventions on Human Rights; launch a one-year campaign, in cooperation with the Arab Journalists Union and the Arab Lawyers Union, for the freedom of the press in the Arab region; and continue its participation in United Nations activities for the promotion and protection of human rights.

2. Association of the Bar of the City of New York

Special consultative status granted in 1997

Aims and purposes

The Association was founded in 1870 by members of the New York bar to fight corruption in the courts and to sustain the profession in its proper position in the community, and thereby enable it ... to promote the interests of the public. Membership is open to lawyers throughout the world. The membership, as of 31 December 2000, was more than 21,000 lawyers, including lawyers whose home bar is in 46 states of the United States, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and in 62 countries.

The Association continues to work at political, legal and social reform and at maintaining high ethical standards for the legal profession. It continues to implement innovative means by which the disadvantaged may be helped, and the public good remains one of the Association's highest priorities. The Legal Referral Service, jointly sponsored by the Association and the New York County Lawyers' Association, provides an array of services directly aimed at serving the needs of the public. The Robert B. McKay Community Outreach Law Program identifies the most pressing legal concerns of New York's neediest and uses novel approaches to address them, often involving community participation.

The Association has more than 180 standing and special committees, working groups and other bodies. Those with particular relevance to the United Nations and its work include:

(a) African Affairs;

(b) Asian Affairs;

(c) Coordination of Relations with European Bars;

(d) Delegation to the International Bar Association;

(e) Delegation to the Union internationale des avocats;

(f) European Affairs;

(g) Foreign and Comparative Law;

(h) Independent States of the Former Soviet Union;

(i) Inter-American Affairs;

(j) Council on International Affairs;

(k) International Commercial Dispute Resolution;

(l) International Environmental Law;

(m) International Human Rights;

(n) International Law;

(o) International Legal Services;

(p) International Security Affairs;

(q) International Trade;

(r) Military Affairs and Justice;

(s) United Nations.

Activities relevant to the work of the United Nations

The Association organizes and holds, throughout the year, solely or in cooperation with one or more entities, more than 200 forums, programmes, seminars and other events. In recent years, under the leadership of the Chairs of the Council on International Affairs and the United Nations Working Group, the Association has been engaged in many United Nations-related activities. A partial list is set forth below:

(a) United States Senate, Foreign Relations Committee hearing with the participation of the Chair of the United States Senate Armed Services Committee. The Under-Secretary-General for Management and other senior officials made statements and responded to questions (21 January 2000);

(b) Induction of Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as an Honorary Member of the Association;

(c) Letter to the President, President-elect and bar executive of major bar associations in the United States urging, under the rule of law and generally accepted principles of international law, action in support of the prompt and full payment of the financial obligation of the United States to the United Nations;

(d) Briefings on United Nations matters by the Under-Secretaries-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Management, the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), the Secretary and senior officials of UNCITRAL, and other senior officials of the United Nations;

(e) Briefing on United Nations legal matters by the Chair of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly;

(f) Briefing on United Nations management matters by the Chair of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly;

(g) Briefings on United Nations matters by various Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and their respective staff members;

(h) UNICEF-specific major forum;

(i) Programme for the use of Association Law Library, one of the largest private law libraries in the United States and the largest member-funded law library in the United States, by members of the Office of Legal Affairs and the Legal Advisers of the Permanent Missions;

(j) Report urging creation of an International Criminal Court;

(k) Assistance in preparation of UNCITRAL's legislative guide for privately financed infrastructure.

In addition, Committees and other bodies of the Association held meetings on topics which are relevant to the activities and work of the United Nations, and a great number of forums, programmes and seminars on specialized topics were conducted.

A United Nations flag is on continuous prominent display in the House of the Association. The flag is believed to be among the oldest United Nations flags in New York.

The Association has participated in each of the three full-day briefings at United Nations Headquarters for the President and special representatives of bars, bar associations and law societies and other leaders of the profession from throughout the world (8 September 1997, 11 December 1998, and 7 July 2000). The third briefing was held in conjunction with the New York session of the 2000 annual meeting of the American Bar Association. During the briefings, presentations were made by senior officials of the United Nations, including the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Management, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Assistant Secretary-General for External Affairs, senior members of the Office of Legal Affairs, and other senior and intermediate level officials of the United Nations.

The relations between the Association and the United Nations are overseen and coordinated by the Co-Chairs of the United Nations Working Group. The Association has active representatives to the United Nations in each of the principal venues: New York, Geneva and Vienna. The Association has sought and seeks to be of service to the United Nations and components of the system, including the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of Legal Affairs and UNCITRAL.

The Association has had close and warm ongoing relations with UNCITRAL, including close liaison with the Secretary and Senior Legal Officer. Some Association commercial law-related commissions have been and continue to be involved with the work of UNCITRAL.

The Association was well represented at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1996) and subsequent meetings.

The Association values very highly its association with the United Nations through its special consultative status with the Council. It hopes to make a contribution to the aims and goals of the Council and other components of the United Nations system. That involvement and contribution is increasing year by year and will continue to do so. The Association stands ready, whenever called upon, to give such assistance as it is able to the Council and other components of the system.

3. Congress of Black Women of Canada
Le Congrès des Femmes Noires du Canada

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The Congress of Black Women of Canada/Le Congrès des femmes noires du Canada, the only black women's national organization in Canada, was established as a national organization in 1980 after four conferences, held between 1973-1977. There are 24 chapters across Canada, including one Francophone chapter, with an overall current membership of 525 women. The funding was reduced due to the cutbacks and stringent measures taken to reduce the deficit. It is expected to be increased to 1996 levels this fiscal year.

The raison d'être of the organization is equality and justice for black women and their families in Canada and full participation and enjoyment of their economic, cultural, legal, political and social rights. It seeks to provide a forum and a voice for this constituency, in a society where the majority of its members are marginalized because of their race, colour, and socio-economic status. The organization focuses on concerns relating to human rights, poverty, violence against women, and housing. The organization has acquired two low-cost housing complexes and manages them. The organization works to effect changes in government laws, policies and programmes which adversely affect or could affect black women and their families. It follows a framework of feminist principles to raise the dignity of black women in Canada.

Activities relating to the work of the United Nations

Before and since receiving consultative status in 1997, the organization's activities relating to the United Nations have been primarily participation in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

1997

On behalf of the organization, the President attended the forty-first session of the Commission and chaired the North/South Black Women and Women of Colour Caucus. She assisted in the preparation of alternative wording for submission to delegates of member States and in preparation of a statement from the Caucus.

1998

The National Secretary and past President attended the forty-second session of the Commission and presented a statement prepared by the Caucus.

1999

The past President of the Congress attended the forty-third session of the Commission. Activities were focused on participation on the NGO Human Rights Committee and with the NGO group working on the Protocol to the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The past President co-chaired the North/South Black Women and Women of Colour Caucus and assisted in the line-by-line revisions and the preparation of a statement from the Caucus for distribution to delegates.

The Congress became a member of the Canada World March Committee and assisted in organizing activities, which culminated in the March on 15 October in Ottawa. Fifty thousand women from across Canada were estimated to have participated in the March; several demands were presented to the federal Government.

2000

The Congress was represented by the interim President at the forty-fourth session of the Commission. It assisted in preparation of the final line-by-line revisions in the statement by the NGO Human Rights Committee. It also assisted in the statement and lobbying points prepared by the North/South Black Women and Women of Colour Caucus and distributed them to delegates. It was represented at a special meeting, requested by the Caucus, with a representative from the Commission on Human Rights, to obtain information about the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances, to be held in South Africa in 2001.

June 2000

The President of the Congress and a member of the Ottawa chapter attended the special session of the General Assembly.

October 2000

The Congress participated in the Women's World March, presented relevant demands to the Minister of Immigration and the Secretary of State responsible for Multi-Culturism and Heritage as well as the Canadian Status of Women. It also met with the leader of one of the parties and the Liberal Women's Caucus.

Ongoing since March 2000

The Congress is a member of a coalition of Canadian organizations and individuals preparing for the World Conference Against Racism. It is working on a subcommittee that will produce an alternative report to the Government's report.

4. Federation of Cuban Women

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The Federation of Cuban Women (FCW) has the following main objectives: to struggle for the full incorporation, participation and promotion of women in the economic, political, social and cultural life of the country under conditions of equality of rights and opportunities; to attain the necessary transformations and the strengthening of the family that will make all of its members aware of their responsibilities, and to promote the development of non-sexist education in the family, school and society.

In the period under question, the membership has increased to 104,304 women.

FCW is self-sufficient both in national and foreign currency. There has been no substantial change in sources of funding.

In November 2000 the organization was affiliated to another in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the International Council of Social Welfare.

Participation in the work of the Council

Representatives of FCW annually participated in the Women's Caucus and the NGO Forums organized related to the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York, and the Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva. In March 1998, it distributed documents at the session of the Commission on the Status of Women about critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action, particularly health, armed conflicts, and institutional mechanisms.

Also during 1998, written contributions were sent to the Commission on Human Rights relating to the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights and a resolution condemning the United States blockade and supporting Cuba, which was adopted at the International Encounter of Solidarity Between Women, held in Havana. Since 1998, there have been oral contributions made each year to the Commission on Human Rights regarding women and the rights of the child. In 2000 contributions were also made on the issues of economic, social, and cultural rights and on the issue of violations of human rights in some countries. In 1999 FCW participated in the NGO Forum of the follow-up meeting of the Conference on Population and Development (Cairo+5), held in New York.

In 2000, representatives of FCW participated in the following events: the NGO Forum of the VII Conference on Women of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (February, Peru); the Millennium NGO Forum (May, New York); the special session of the General Assembly (June, New York) (Beijing+5); and the parallel events that were held, such as the Economic Justice Caucus, the NGO Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, in a workshop on violence of the Comité Latinoamericano por los Derechos de la Mujer, which also has consultative status. A representative gave an oral presentation at the special session of the General Assembly at which the Copenhagen commitments on women and economic justice were reviewed (June, Geneva) and at the parallel Forum dedicated to cooperation, co-sponsored by the Government of Italy.

There is fluid and transparent communication between FCW and United Nations bodies, including the specialized agencies. The Government of Italy, jointly with UNDP, UNOPS, and FCW agreed to create a programme of decentralized cooperation in three provinces of Cuba. In 1998, an agreement including 13 municipalities was adopted. The Federation takes part in the national committee on the project as well as the local committees, in order to monitor and offer advice on gender mainstreaming. FCW has been in charge of gender training courses, nationally and locally.

Other relevant activities

FCW has cooperated in the implementation of various United Nations resolutions, through written contributions. Comments have been sent to UNHCHR on several issues, such as basic principles and directives on the rights of victims of grave human rights violations and international humanitarian law to obtain compensation, protection of the human rights of persons infected with HIV; and the Decade for Education in the Field of Human Rights.

Representatives of FCW have taken part, 1997-1999, as advisers to the World Food Programme in Cuba and have developed gender mainstreaming workshops in Central America. In 1999, a FCW representative was a panellist on globalization and its negative impact on women at the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and in 2000, was a consultant to FAO on projects of rural women in Mexico. In 2000, a representative attended a workshop on the follow-up to the Social Development Summit. Two representatives took part in a panel on gender indicators at the Beijing+5 NGO Forum, organized by UNIFEM and the Statistics Division of the Secretariat; a representative took part in the NGO consultation with the Expert Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at its twenty-third session. In cooperation with FCW, UNDP has carried out programmes to fulfil in Cuba the demands of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Courses, workshops, publications and videos were produced. UNDP has supported the participation of representatives of FCW at the special session of the General Assembly on women.

UNIFEM has promoted the strengthening of the gender perspective by means of an information network among municipalities and the national division of FCW.

FCW is a member of the National Committee of the Milk and Food Development Projects of WFP, and is in charge of gender training in the provinces of Las Tunas and Granma, where the project is being implemented.

In 1997, FCW co-sponsored with FAO the Meeting of National Rural Networks of Latin American Women, held in Cuba. UNFPA has supported the international meetings of the women's study units organized by FCW.

5. General Arab Women Federation

Special consultative status granted in 1985

Objectives

(a) To act to unify Arab women's movements at the international level and to encourage their participation in international conferences and organizations as one group;

(b) To strengthen a spirit of cooperation and solidarity among Arab women in order to make them a whole unit and unify their efforts in social, educational and health services;

(c) To inform world public opinion of the situation of Arab women and their role in building their communities;

(d) To enhance Arab women's roles and responsibilities within the family, as partners with men in educating and bringing up children, in cooperation and equality;

(e) To make women aware of their rights, train them to exercise their rights and encourage them to participate, at different levels, in the life of society;

(f) To open up opportunities for women in Arab society to study at different levels and achieve their social and educational goals;

(g) To prepare opportunities and means to prepare and rehabilitate women at different levels of work and enable them to carry out their responsibilities;

(h) To combat ideas against equality;

(i) To integrate women into Arab society and involve them in the process of development;

(j) To participate in social and economic development through cooperation with other organizations;

(k) To help Arab women abroad and connect them to their homelands.

The Federation has an operational relationship with UNESCO and is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) and of the CONGO Executive Bureau since 1994.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

The Federation participated in the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council over the period covered by this report and as follows:

Commission on Human Rights

The Federation participated in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights from 1997 to 2000. At the fifty-third, a representative of the Federation delivered a speech on item 10, concerning violations of human rights. At the fifty-fourth, a representative delivered a speech on item 20 of the agenda on children's rights. In cooperation with another non-governmental organization, the Federation

organized a round-table seminar on human rights and economic sanctions. At the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions, a representative made statements. The Federation participated in the special session of the Commission on Human Rights, on the situation in the occupied Arab lands.

Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The Federation participated in the meetings of the Working Group on Minorities (25-29 May 1998). It also participated in the fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Subcommission. At the fifty-first session, it organized a round-table seminar "The killing of a People". At the fifty-second session, a representative of the Federation delivered a speech on item 12.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Federation participated in the forty-first, forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Commission.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Federation participated in the fortieth session of the Commission.

Participation in United Nations international seminars

The Federation participated in a seminar on the Palestinian question, organized by the Palestinian Rights Department, United Nations Secretariat (Jakarta, 6-9 May 1997). It also participated in the United Nations Conference on the Palestinian Question (Cairo, 27-29 April 1998). It participated in the International Conference on Family Violence (New Delhi, 8-11 September 1998), and in the conference entitled Bethlehem 2000 (Rome, 18-19 February 1999). The Federation participated in a meeting on the future of the people of the world and the United Nations role in confronting challenges of the twenty-first century (New York, 22-26 May 2000). The Federation participated in the work of the Preparatory Committee to follow-up the Child Summit held in New York over the period from 29 May to 2 June 2000.

Participation in special sessions of the General Assembly

The Federation participated in the special sessions on the following subjects: narcotic drugs (1998); women (2000); and social development (2000). The Federation also took part in the NGO Forums held on the fringe of the two sessions in 2000.

Other activities

The Federation participated in the UNESCO meetings on women, unity and equality (Paris, 7-9 October 1997) and in the UNESCO General Conference's work (Paris, 16 October to 17 November 1997).

The Federation participated in the CONGO meetings, held in 1997-2000. It was a member of the Executive Bureau in 1998-2000.

In the Arab arena, the Federation participated in meetings of the Arab Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations, on overcoming addiction (Cairo, 25-28 June 1998), in the international seminar organized by the Arab Family Organization, on families and globalization (Tunisia, 1998), in the General Assembly of the Arab-Afro Women Unified Association (Tripoli, 16-18 May 1998), in the Joint Arab Action Fields seminar, organized by the Egyptian Commission for Solidarity (Cairo, 2-3 March 1998), in the twenty-fifth session of the Arab Work Conference, organized by the Arab Work Organization (Aqsur, Egypt, 2-9 March 1998), in the second Arab meeting to follow-up on the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beirut, 12-15 December 1998), in a seminar on activating the private societies' role in confronting challenges of the Arab family in the twenty-first century) organized by the Arab Family Organization (Cairo, 29-30 October 1998), and in the Arab Family Organization and the International Family Organizations' meetings (United Arab Emirates, 2-9 December 1999).

6. Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) is a media development charity working to strengthen democratic voices and to contribute to international understanding of regional conflicts. Field projects operate in the conflict regions of the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia and at the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague. Media development is achieved through

(a) Long-distance training of local journalists in the regions by an editorial team in London and provision of resulting reports with a regional and worldwide readership;

(b) Monitoring of local media output;

(c) Provision of media resources, allowing access to the Internet to regional journalists and non-governmental organizations and other human rights representatives.

By using these alternative media approaches, IWPR aims to contribute to the resolution of conflict and to the strengthening of civil society and democracy, while promoting the spirit of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

IWPR's expansion of operations into new regions and the diversification of IWPR activities, 1997-2000, in the light of new media developments and changing political situations on the ground are documented below. The resulting increase of IWPR's impact and the awards which have followed are noted. New conflicts in Chechnya and the former Yugoslavia have led to increased unofficial, informal contact between IWPR members and United Nations personnel as peacemaking and peacekeeping activities have replaced fighting. The convergent aims of both organizations are highlighted.

Field projects

IWPR's field projects are often carried out in regions where the United Nations is working to lay the foundation for durable peace. Increasingly IWPR has established itself as a critical resource for such organizations to inform personnel and create links between civil voices in the regions and decision makers within the organizations.

IWPR continues to operate field programmes in the Balkans, linking a broad network of independent journalists, academics, democracy activists and peacekeepers. New programmes have been launched in the Caucasus, north and south (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Russian Federation) and in the states of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan). Regional journalists reporting on issues of human rights, conflict resolution and democratization processes are trained by the prestigious editorial team in IWPR's London office. Local media output is monitored in these regions.

The project in the Hague, reporting on the War Crimes Tribunal, continues, encouraged by Prosecutor Richard Goldstone arguing that the media must serve as the first bridge on behalf of the Court to try to cross the understanding gap of the public to the Court's proceedings.

IWPR completed its long-running visiting journalist programme in London and launched special cross-community reporting projects in collaboration with local partner organizations. The projects resulted in print and electronic publications and exchange activities.

The NATO bombing campaign in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Russian Federation's renewed war in Chechnya resulted in restrictions on the international press and local media alike. IWPR was able to play a unique role in supporting regional journalists and breaking through information blockages. Increasingly working alongside United Nations personnel, IWPR journalists' reports became a respected source of news and analytical information for a worldwide audience in the absence of international media.

IWPR launched its KOSOVO Media Resource Centre to meet the needs of local journalists and other personnel working under increasingly difficult circumstances, providing free Internet access, archived reports from international media and discussion forums for journalists and international officials.

IWPR was contracted to advise the Government of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) on media development programmes in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the Balkans and the Caucasus.

IWPR hosts occasional public information briefings and seminars. One such was the Media and Human Rights Conference in the Southern Caucasus, held at the International Conference Centre in Tbilisi, Georgia, 7-9 November 1998, at which Mr. Hy Shelow, Protection Officer, UNHCR/Tbilisi, introduced the participants to basic human rights notions and the basics of human rights reporting.

Publications

Since 1996, IWPR reports have been increasingly published electronically on the Institute's web site in four languages and distributed to a large number of email subscribers worldwide. The Internet has provided an international audience for regional voices reporting in the *Balkan Crisis Reports, Caucasus Reporting Service, Central Asia Reporting* and *Tribunal Update*. Reports are written by a variety of correspondents, from those working for and with the United Nations to those living in the regions and writing about the impact of the United Nations peacekeeping missions on their lives. United Nations agencies which have received special attention are UNMIK and UNHCR.

The renowned *WarReport*, reporting on Balkan affairs, was published throughout 1997 until the final issue in March 1998.

The War Crimes Tribunal Monitoring project published regular reports from the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague in *Tribunal Update*.

From IWPR's Georgia office came *Media Caucasia*, a quarterly Russian-language bulletin on media and human rights issues.

A publication entitled *Reporting Macedonia: The New Accommodation*, resulted from a special cross-community reporting project of Macedonian and Albanian journalists.

Occasional special projects result in paper publications such as a report on the main players in the recent Serbian elections, resulting in the book *Out of Time* and a book on the media monitoring activities of the Belarussian elections, *Polls Apart*.

Expanding readership

Reports appear in English on the web site (www.iwpr.net) and are translated into Russian, Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian, Albanian and French. Current data on traffic to the web site indicate that several thousand visitors access the site each day. At the height of the conflicts in Kosovo and Chechnya, traffic at times surpassed 65,000 hits per day. A further 10,000 subscribed readers receive the free reports by email each week.

Reports are widely republished in the regions (29 newspapers in Central Asia regularly republished articles in 2000) and internationally, particularly during the height of the NATO bombing campaign and the Chechen war, in, for example, *The Guardian, International Herald Tribune, Washington Post, Newsday,* and *Frankfurter Allgemeine*. Regular syndication occurs in the United States through the Knight-Ridder news wire, with citations in the *New York Times, Le Monde, Time, US News & World Report* and others. Associations and syndications with One-world On-line, Moreover.com and Globalbeat, among others, provide substantial additional outreach through Internet and direct email alerts to the wide audience in Europe and North America of these organizations. Prominent links on the web sites of CNN, MSNBC, BBC Yahoo! and other major media and information sources have increased the profile of the Institute and raised awareness of the web site as a source of historic and current regional information.

United Nations personnel are regular visitors to the web site and are evident in the subscribers to the reports by email, with over 50 *un.org* addresses.

Accolades and awards

As the impact of IWPR has increased, so has international recognition and acclaim for the Institute's achievements. In 1999, IWPR won the United Kingdom's first Internet reporting awards — in competition with BBC and other services — for Best Overall Journalism Service. One of IWPR's reporters won the European Internet Journalist of the Year award in 2000 and a short-listing for the prestigious Amnesty International Global Human Rights Reporting Award.

7. International Commission of Jurists

Special consultative status granted in 1957

The activities of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in the four years 1997-2000 have continued to be directed towards promoting the observance, respect for and implementation of human rights under the rule of law, activities relating to the violations of human rights, and international standard-setting.

A great number of activities concerning the promotion and protection of human rights and the observance of the rule of law have taken place within the United Nations, pursuant to the consultative status enjoyed by ICJ with the Council. They have included making reports and oral and written interventions, lobbying governmental delegates and members of United Nations bodies in support of proposals put forward and attending United Nations Committee meetings.

The subjects covered have included the World Summit on Social Development; indigenous populations; principles for the protection of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment; enforced or involuntary disappearances; administrative detention; the elimination of racial discrimination; economic, social and cultural rights; human rights defenders; establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court; World Conference against Racism, elaboration of a set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity, draft basic principles and guidelines on the right to reparation for victims of violations of human rights, and international humanitarian law and other situations of human rights violations.

Activities relevant to the work of the Council

Establishment of an International Criminal Court

The establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) has been a key objective of ICJ for many years, and a number of activities were undertaken to lobby support and mobilize public opinion in this respect. In 1998, ICJ organized a joint round-table discussion in Geneva on Human Rights and International Criminal Prosecution: The Road t Rome. ICJ also hosted a meeting for the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court, which explored the practical arrangements for the Rome conference and the non-governmental organization strategy. Three briefing papers were prepared for the Rome conference. The ICJ's representative addressed the plenary conference, stating that the ICC should have jurisdiction over the three core crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. ICJ issued a brief assessment of the Rome

Statute. In April 1999 a round-table discussion was organized to answer the questions relating to the aftermath of the Rome conference.

Follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development/Geneva 2000 Forum

ICJ participated actively in the special session of the General Assembly and the Geneva 2000 Forum, organized by the Swiss Government.

Indigenous populations

ICJ presented to the Commission on Human Rights in March 1999 the conclusions and recommendations of its mission to Mexico concerning the situation of human rights, with particular focus on the situation faced by indigenous communities in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca. ICJ also distributed a document on the existing discrimination against indigenous and black people in Peru to members of the Commission on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Working Group on Drafting a Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

ICJ participated actively in the Working Group. It welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Declaration on the Rights of Human Rights Defenders and the appointment of the Special Rapporteur.

Economic, social and cultural rights

In October 1998, ICJ, together with its section in Colombia, organized a seminar in Medellin on economic, social and cultural rights. The seminar focused on subjects such as the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the justiciability of those rights. In 1999 ICJ organized a workshop on the draft optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, under the auspices of UNHCHR. Follow-up activities were organized later in the year, and a second workshop will be organized in February 2001. In 1997, ICJ published a compilation of essential documents on economic, social and cultural rights. It submitted a written statement to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session, on "Human rights in the context of globalization". It made an oral intervention to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, urging States to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Rights of the child

In December 1999, ICJ organized a seminar in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on state reporting to the United Nations treaty bodies, with special focus on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Rapporteur of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Chairperson and Secretary of the Covenant attended the seminar as resource persons. In January 2000, ICJ made video recordings of the proceedings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, along with interviews of the members of the Committee. The video record will be used as a training tool to familiarize Governments and non-governmental organizations alike on the working of the Committee in the Asia/Pacific region.

Enforced or involuntary disappearances

In May 1998, ICJ sent a letter to the Chairman of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced Disappearances concerning disappearances during the military dictatorship in Chile. ICJ was closely involved in the elaboration of a draft international convention on the protection of all persons from forced disappearance of the Subcommission's Working Group on Administration of Justice. In October 2000, ICJ organized a meeting addressed to the diplomatic missions in Geneva on the draft convention. In November 2000, ICJ submitted its comments on the draft convention to UNHCHR.

Administration of justice/independence of the judiciary and protection of lawyers

The ICJ's Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session the preliminary findings of the CIJL's annual report, *Attacks on Justice*. In August 1998, two statements were delivered before the session of the Working Group on the Administration of Justice and the Question of Compensation on the subject of the proposed universal convention against forced disappearances. ICJ also delivered to the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fiftieth session a statement on the administration of justice in Peru and Tunisia. In August 2000, ICJ asked the Working Group on the Administration of Justice to start a study on the administration of justice in the military court.

Gross and systematic violations of human rights

On many occasions ICJ made oral and written interventions of situations with which it has been concerned, particularly to the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission (6-10 interventions per session).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia

ICJ delivered oral interventions at the fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, to support the High Commissioner's report on Colombia and on the work of her office in Bogotá.

Right to reparation

During the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, ICJ hosted two meetings on basic principles on reparation. A compilation of essential documents, "The right to reparation for victims of human rights violations", was published. It comprised, inter alia, the draft principles that were prepared by the Subcommission's former Special Rapporteur.

Impunity of human rights violations

In 1997 and 1998, ICJ contributed to the elaboration of the Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through action to combat impunity, adopted by the Subcommission. At the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, ICJ organized a meeting on the Set of Principles.

World Conference on Racism and Racial Discrimination

ICJ participated actively in the ad hoc meetings in preparation of the forthcoming Conference which will be held in August 2001 in South Africa.

Diffusion of the jurisprudence of the treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

In 2000, ICIJ presented the *Amicus Curiae* and legal briefs before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the courts and authorities of Colombia, Peru and Argentina, explaining the jurisprudence and doctrine of the treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights regarding impunity and the right to reparation.

Information

ICJ publishes an annual *Review* (in English, French and Spanish), an annual *CIJL Yearbook* in English, an annual report entitled "Attacks on Justice: The Harassment and Persecution of Judges and Lawyers" in English, and a quarterly report in English.

These contain as a regular feature reports of meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission, the Human Rights Committee and of other United Nations meetings. Important United Nations documents are reproduced in full or in summary in the category "Basic texts" of the *ICJ Review* or as appendices to the *CIJL Yearbook*.

8. International Federation of Building and Wood Workers

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW) is an international trade union secretariat, established in 1934 by a merger of the Building Workers International and Wood Workers International. The International Secretariat of Stone Masons, the International Secretariat of Painters and Allied Trades, and the International Secretariat of Bricklayers have all subsequently joined the Federation.

IFBWW seeks to unite and represent all free and democratic trade unions in the building, wood, forestry and allied industries. It cooperates with the European and Nordic Federations of Building and Wood Workers and with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). It promotes the principles of international solidarity and is an active defender of human and trade union rights. IFBWW conducts activities in the field of workers' education and trade union development, coordinates international solidarity actions, carries out research on a wide range of industrial issues, represents its affiliates' interests at world meetings and conferences, has women's and youth programmes, and works to combat child labour.

The headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Regional Offices are in Panama for Latin America, Zimbabwe for Africa and Malaysia for Asia and Pacific. Sub-regional and Education Offices are located in Burkina Faso, Japan, Australia and India. In the Philippines (Quezon City), there is the IFBWW Philippine Affiliated

Program Office (IPAPO), in Lebanon (Beirut), there is the IFBWW Middle East Project Office, in Bulgaria (Sofia) there is the IFBWW Balkans Project Office.

IFBWW currently groups over 11 million members in 283 trade unions in 124 countries.

IFBWW is an officially recognized non-governmental organization for the building, wood, forestry and allied sectors within the International Labour Organization. It promotes its policy in international organizations such as the ILO, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), international environmental organizations, and regional and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

IFBWW played a lead role in discussions on and preparations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work. The Code was adopted on 30 September 1997 by an ILO meeting of experts on safety and health in forest work.

From 17 to 26 January 2000, in an effort to ensure higher international health and safety standards in the use of mineral fibres, IFBWW participated in the development and adoption by the ILO of a code of practice in the use of synthetic vitreous fibre insulation wools (glass wool, rock wool, slag wool).

IFBWW attended sessions of the ILO and in recent years played an active role in discussions on contract labour and maternity protection. A member of the secretariat staff participated in the Meeting of Experts on Situations Requiring Protection, in May 2000.

IFBWW also implemented a range of technical cooperation projects with the support of the ILO and also supported affiliates participating in large-scale ILO programmes. IFBWW will attend the following ILO sectoral meetings for both construction and forestry during 2001: Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Labour Dimensions of the Forestry and Woods Industries on the Move (17-21 September), and Tripartite Meeting on the Construction Industry in the 21st Century: Its Image, Employment Prospects and Skill Requirements (10-14 December).

IFBWW attended the following meetings in the reporting period:

(a) Sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements (Nairobi, 4-16 April 1997);

(b) Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 11-25 April 1997 and 19-30 April 1999);

(c) Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 3-21 March 1997);

(d) FAO Committee on Forestry (Rome, 3-13 March 1997);

(e) FAO Eleventh World Forestry Congress (Antalya, 10-22 October 1997);

(f) NGO Workshop on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (Geneva, 26 June 1998);

(g) Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (Geneva, 24 August to 4 September 1998, 3-13 May 1999, and New York, 31 January to 11 February 2000);

(h) United Nations Seminar on Trade-related Aspects of Sustainable Management (Geneva, 23-25 February 1999);

(i) FAO Committee on Forestry (Rome, 1-5 March 1999);

(j) Fifteenth World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health (Sao Paolo, 12-16 April 1999);

(k) International Tropical Timber Organization Council meeting (Changmai, 21-25 May 1999, and Peru, 24-30 May 2000);

(l) AUVA/ILO Health and Safety in the Construction Industry in the 21st Century (Vienna, 6-8 October 1999);

(m) Twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (Social Summit+5) (26-30 June 2000).

9. National Union of Jurists of Cuba

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The National Union of Jurists of Cuba (UNJC) is a social, non-profit non-governmental organization with the main purpose of gathering the jurists of the country (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, academicians, legal advisers, consultants, notary lawyers) so as to follow up and update their educational, professional, scientific and investigative level and provide for a better development of their activities. When the Union was granted consultative status, it had around 9,000 members, and now that number has increased to over 10,000 nationwide.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

The National Union of Jurists of Cuba has played an active role through oral contributions to the discussions and in writing, with statements and other works delivered to the Secretariat in the following meetings:

(a) Three sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth), and intention to attend the fifty-seventh. The Union took part in the work related to civil and political, social, economic and cultural rights, the right to development and human rights violations;

(b) The Millennium Summit meeting of non-governmental organizations, held in New York in 2000, where it presented a written contribution, in coordination with all of the Cuban non-governmental organizations, on the subject of democracy, human rights and peace and sovereignty;

(c) In 1999 the Union participated in the meeting held in Rome to approve the Statute of the International Criminal Court, where it presented a written report on its criteria concerning the omission from the text of certain types of crimes and other considerations. Communication links were kept open with the Latin American coalition;

(d) In the year 2000 UNJC also took part in the Latin American Meeting Against Racism, a preparatory event for the World Conference Against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It has scheduled its participation at the Conference itself.

The Union's presence at other Commissions, Subcommissions and groups is limited because of financial constraints.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

The National Union of Jurists of Cuba has systematically and actively cooperated with the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies:

(a) UNDP, together with the Cuban Association of the United Nations. UNJC has organized and taken part in round-table discussions and conferences dealing with topics such as the democratization or reform of the United Nations, respect for international law, etc.;

(b) UNICEF. Joint studies have been conducted with UNICEF on a code for children and youth, children and international humanitarian law, international adoption, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, etc.;

(c) UNFPA. Conferences on the world's population, development, etc.;

(d) A great number of different activities have been successfully organized jointly with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Regional Red Cross Committee, located in Guatemala, the Cuban Red Cross and its International Humanitarian Law Center, to disseminate and train on various legal, military and medical subjects of national and international interest, together with the Cuban Ministry of the Interior;

(e) The Union held national and international courses and workshops. It participated in the visit to Cuba of the High Commissioner in 2000;

(f) UNESCO. Topics such as cultural assets and international humanitarian law, computer science and law, legal culture and ethics were the subject of conferences and meetings.

Other activities

Four national workshop-seminars were organized. Four international "Jean Piclec" commissions were established and awarded prizes. Over 45 works were presented. The first International Seminar on International Humanitarian Law was held and attended by more than 60 specialists from Central America, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. The second International Seminar has been announced for 19-22 September 2001.

Other relevant activities

The National Union of Jurists of Cuba has always taken the proper measures to implement the resolutions adopted by the United Nations, namely through statements, publications, conferences and other events aimed at disseminating them and making connections with other related groups. It is particularly concerned with resolutions on the following subjects:

Colonialism;

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenants on Civil and Political and Social, Economic and Cultural Rights;

The right to development;

The rights of the child, and women's rights.

10. Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association

Special consultative status granted in 1953

The Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA) was founded in 1928 to further the cause of peace by fostering friendships and the exchange of knowledge among women of the Pacific and South-East Asia region for the study and betterment of social, economic, and cultural conditions. PPSEAWA now has national member associations in 22 countries, an increase of three since the last quadrennial report. Three, in India, Pakistan, and Thailand, are separately accredited to the Council.

During the years 1997-2000, PPSEAWA representatives followed sessions of the General Assembly when appropriate; the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in New York and Geneva; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok; UNESCO in Paris; UNICEF in New York; and the weekly briefings for non-governmental organizations conducted in New York by the Department of Public Information. Representatives report orally at PPSEAWA meetings and in writing to officers, national presidents, and editors of the twice yearly *Bulletin*.

PPSEAWA was represented at the following United Nations conferences and meetings:

(a) Commission on the Status of Women (New York), annual sessions in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. At the forty-fourth session (2000), PPSEAWA facilitated an all-day working meeting, with lunch, for the Asia-Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) on 3 March 2000;

(b) ESCAP (Bangkok), annual sessions in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(c) Department of Public Information (United Nations Secretariat) (New York), annual conferences for non-governmental organizations, in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 (Millennium Summit for NGOs);

(d) NGO consultations before each session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1997, 1998 1999 and 2000;

(e) NGO Committee on UNICEF, monthly meetings (New York) in 1998, 1999 and 2000. The PPSEAWA representative is Recording Secretary;

(f) NGO Committee on UNICEF, Working Group on Girls (New York), regular meetings in 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(g) UNIFEM, receptions for members of the examining Committee on Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York), January and July, in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(h) NGO Committee on UNIFEM, regular meetings in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(i) NGO Committee on the Status of Women (Geneva), regular meetings in 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(j) Opening of the Assembly of WHO and NGO Forum (Geneva), in 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(k) Meetings of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva), in 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(l) Observance of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples (Geneva), in 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(m) United Nations/Geneva information meeting for non-governmental organizations, in November 1999 and 2000;

(n) International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, in 1999 and 2000;

(o) Observance of the International Day of Older Persons (Geneva), in 1999 and 2000;

(p) CONGO, triennial General Assembly (Geneva) 1997, (Vienna) 2000. At the Vienna Assembly, PPSEAWA was elected to the Board of Directors;

(q) CONGO Board meetings (observer, Geneva, June 1999 and New York, February 2000; member, Vienna, 2000);

(r) United Nations Hospitality Committee, annual lecture on protocol for spouses of new diplomats, and annual lecture of the Department of Public Information on protocol as part of orientation programme for new non-governmental organizations: lectures were given by PPSEAWA member, former Chief of Protocol, United States Mission;

(s) UNESCO, with Russian Academy of Administration, third meeting (Moscow) 22-26 January 1997;

(t) Sub-Group on NGOs of the High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations system, 5 February 1997;

(u) Commission for Social Development (New York), 1997;

(v) Observance of the International Day of the Family (New York), 8 May 1997;

(w) Special session of the General Assembly on sustainable development (New York), 23-27 June 1997;

(x) UNESCO Conference on Literacy and Education for All (Hamburg), 14-18 July 1997;

(y) ESCAP/NGO Forum on Social Development in Asia and the Pacific (Kuala Lumpur), 8-10 September 1997;

(z) Convention of Women's Associations: "Women, Bridges for a Better Tomorrow" (Guam), April 1998;

(aa) NGO meeting on shadow reports on implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York) 1 June 1998;

(bb) Association of South-East Asian Nations, annual meeting (Singapore), 16-19 June 1998;

(cc) Seminar and Follow-Up on Implementation of Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing), June, 1998;

(dd) UNESCO Triennial Meeting for NGOs (Paris), November 1998;

(ee) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women shadow report for Thailand, presented January 1999; PPSEAWA/ESCAP representative chaired the project;

(ff) Asia-Pacific Regional NGO Planning Meeting (Manila), May 1999;

(gg) Regional hearing on the United Nations in the twenty-first century: issues, challenges and responses (Japan), 9-10 August 1999;

(hh) Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium, Kasetsart University (NakomPathorn, Thailand); co-hosted by PPSEAWA and Thai Women's Watch, 31 August-4 September 1999;

(ii) Launch of International Year for a Culture of Peace and of International Day of Peace (Bangkok), 9-10 September 1999;

(jj) ESCAP regional hearing preparatory to the United Nations Millennium Assembly (Tokyo) 9-10 September 1999;

(kk) International Conference on the Role of NGOs in the twenty-first century (Seoul), 10-15 October 1999;

(ll) ESCAP regional intergovernmental meeting, preparatory to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Bangkok), 26-29 October 1999;

(mm)ILO Asian Regional Consultation (Manila), October 1999;

(nn) ESCAP Ministerial Meeting on Social Development (Bangkok), 1-5 November 1999;

(oo) WHO International Conference on Tobacco and Health (Kobe), 14-18 November 1999;

(pp) Tenth Kitakuyshu Forum for Asian Women (Kokura), November 1999;

(qq) Local meeting for non-governmental organizations to discuss implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Chicago), 6 December 1999;

(rr) Preparatory Committee for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, 3-18 March 2000: PPSEAWA facilitated an all-day working session, with lunch, for the Asia-Pacific Women's Watch on 3 March;

(ss) International Social Service Open Day and Seminar (Geneva), May 2000;

(tt) UNICEF Conference on the Global Movement for Children (New York), 29 May-2 June 2000;

(uu) Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly: Beijing + 5 (New York), 5-9 June 2000. PPSEAWA joined the Global Association for Women's Health in sponsoring an all-day non-governmental organization meeting on women's health at Hunter College on 7 June;

(vv) Special session of the General Assembly on the World Summit for Social Development, and NGO Forum (Geneva) 21-26 June 2000. PPSEAWA and the International Council of Women co-sponsored a meeting "Women in development" on 22 June;

(ww) Sixth World Conference on Education for Peace (Marly-le-Roi, France), 8-13 July 2000;

(xx) 2000 Pacific Basin Conference (Honolulu), 27 July-3 August 2000;

(yy) Second Meeting of States Parties to the Mine-Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention), (Geneva), September 2000;

(zz) Tripartite Information Video Conference, with United Nations/New York, United Nations/Geneva, and Chicago United Nations office, October 2000. PPSEAWA United Nations representative was asked to formulate a sixth question, to be used if time permitted.

Beginning in 1996 and continuing into 2000, PPSEAWA held a series of workshops, meetings, and seminars on health issues of women and children. The meetings were sponsored by UNESCO and WHO, with funding from Air France and Nestle, S.A.

11. Union of Arab Jurists

Special consultative status granted in 1977

The Union of Arab Jurists is a non-governmental organization with headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.

The Union of Arab Jurists aims at accomplishing liberation of the Arab homeland politically and economically and works for its unity. The Union defends human rights and works for securing them legally. The Union tries to strengthen the ties between the Arab jurists and their counterparts elsewhere in the world. It works on preserving the Islamic jurisprudence.

The Union of Arab Jurists carried out a number of activities from 1997 to 2000, in fields supporting the Charter of the United Nations, realizing its objectives in the legal field, defending human rights and combating racial discrimination. It is a member of the NGO Section on Human Rights at UNESCO and of the Special Committee of NGOs on Disarmament, and is an observer with UNICEF.

The Union of Arab Jurists has a distinguished history of defending human rights, world peace, disarmament and racial discrimination. It submitted proposals, research and studies to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. It held a symposium in Baghdad, attended by senior specialists in the law and intellectual personalities, devoted to teaching humanitarian law.

The Union of Arab Jurists celebrated the following international occasions by issuing communiqués and publishing articles:

(a) International Day of Women (8 March);

(b) Anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations (26 June);

(c) United Nations Day (24 October);

(d) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December). The Union issued statements to draw the attention of the public to the human rights and basic issues of freedom.

In the past four years, the Union secretariat held meetings annually in the field of defending human rights. The meetings discussed issues of peace, security and human rights in the world.

The Union of Arab Jurists participated in international and regional conferences and seminars on human rights, security, environment and child welfare. The Union also prepared papers and studies.

1997

The Commissioner of the Union of Arab Jurists attended the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights and the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

1998

The Union took part in the fiftieth session of the Subcommission and in the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

1999

The Union took part in the fifty-fifth session of the Commission and participated as an observer in the committee elaborating a convention on transnational crime (Vienna, 28 June to 9 July 1999). It also took part in the fifty-first session of the Subcommission.

2000

The Commissioner of the Union of Arab Jurists attended an information session for non-governmental organizations (Geneva, 27-28 October 2000). He participated in the International Conference on Prevention of Racial Discrimination (Addis Ababa, 4-6 October).

The Union of Arab Jurists attended the annual consultative meetings for non-governmental organizations, and also participated in many legal, social and humanitarian conferences and symposia relating to propagating the doctrines of the United Nations and human rights and fostering world peace. The Union cooperated with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies as well as with other non-governmental organizations such as the World Peace Council, the International Commission of Jurists, and the Center for Justice and International Law.